

Highlighting
the U.S. Army's
Chemical
Demilitarization
Program

Reach

Winter 2003

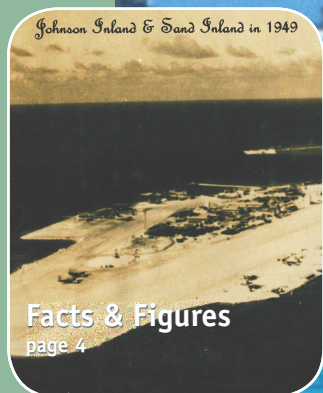
commemorative final edition

JACADS

Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System



The people of JACADS
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Johnson Island & Sand Island in 1949

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To the men and women of
JACADS
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Chemical Materials Agency

www.cma.army.mil
1-800-488-0648

Making Chemical Weapons History

To the men and women of JACADS



Kevin J. Flamm
Program Manager for the
Elimination of Chemical Weapons

Well done! What more can I say about the efforts you have made to bring about the successful completion of the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System's mission. Our nation and the world owe you a debt of gratitude.

Thousands of you—valiant workers, technicians, operators, scientists, engineers, soldiers, mechanics, clerks, administrative assistants, team leads, supervisors and managers, government and contractor—have worked tens of millions of hours to accomplish the admirable goal of eliminating the chemical weapons stored on Johnston Island. You have endured life half a world away from home, family and friends, months and years at a time, on a remote island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

You have weathered typhoons, the harsh salt-sea elements, sunburn, dehydration, loneliness and isolation, and extremely long and difficult flights to see home and family. You have worked months and years without being able just to hop in your car and go for a drive, visit with family and friends, go out for fast food, to the ball game, or to the shopping mall. You have forgone the everyday activities and events of life that most

Americans take for granted, and you willingly have sacrificed these things out of a higher sense of duty.

You have immersed yourselves in an effort to rid the world of these chemical agents and weapons. Unheralded by the world at large, your many successes have gone largely unnoticed, while alarmists have exaggerated the few problems. But nothing has deterred you from your mission. From the construction of JACADS in 1985, to the final chemical agent weapon destroyed Nov. 29, 2000, to closing JACADS well ahead of schedule, you and your co-workers have willingly sacrificed to make this a safer world.

In successfully destroying the stockpile on Johnston Island, you not only eliminated the chemical weapons moved there in the 1970's from Japan but also the chemical weapons that formerly had been a part of the US/NATO deterrent in Germany and Europe. Yours has truly been a global effort. You also were a key component in educating and training the rest of the world on chemical weapons destruction, including the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. You led the way.

You are directly responsible for the safe destruction of over 410,000 individual chemical munitions and more than 2,031 tons of chemical nerve and blister agents, all the while protecting the environment of Johnston Atoll. You have accomplished that which should be the goal of every mortal—to leave this world a better place. Well done!

In the process, new friendships and relationships have been forged. A bond has been made that only you share. That bond is JACADS. It is a bond of achievement against the odds. A bond of success.

I salute the men and women of JACADS. The scheduled ceremonies and events fall short of the recognition the closure of JACADS deserves, and are far less than you deserve; but I know that your efforts were because you recognized the importance of the mission—not for accolades or recognition. You have my respect and appreciation, and you deserve the respect, gratitude and admiration of every resident of this planet.

I look forward to a day when our children and grandchildren will be taught the JACADS history—chapter one in "Making Chemical Weapons History." JACADS is a proud legacy of hard work, dedication and wise environmental stewardship.

When the day comes that we have successfully eliminated all of the chemical weapons stored in the U.S., you have earned the distinction of saying, "We did it first."

Whenever and wherever chemical weapons disposal is mentioned, you, the men and women of JACADS, have earned the right to stand tall. Hold your heads high. You have made JACADS a glorious part of history.

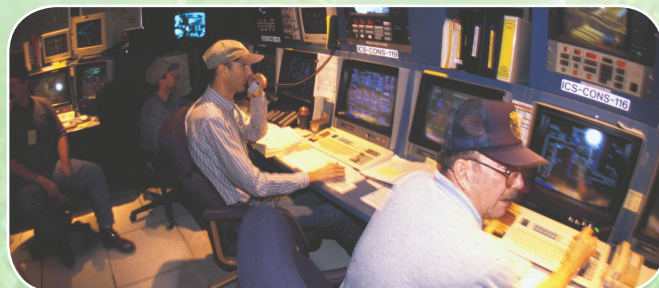
On behalf of my family, our country, and myself, thank you.

Congratulations and well done!

May God continue to bless our efforts, and God bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Flamm".

Kevin J. Flamm
Program Manager for the
Elimination of Chemical Weapons



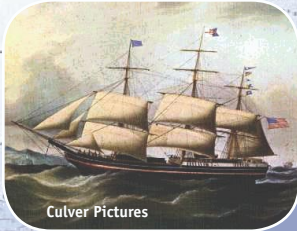
JACADS The People



facts & figures

Johnston Island

history



- Discovered in 1796 by Capt. Joseph Pierpont of Boston when his American brig "Sally" ran aground



- Johnston Island—one of four islands in the atoll—named for Capt. James Johnston who claimed official discovery on Dec. 10, 1807

- Annexed by both the Kingdom of Hawaii and United States in 1858

- U.S. mined guano deposits until depletion in 1890

- Officially annexed by the United States in 1898

- On July 29, 1926, President Coolidge establishes Johnston Atoll as a federal bird refuge

- Shelled by Japan shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor

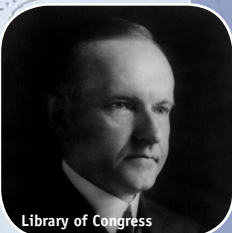
- Used as submarine supply point during WW II

- Supported airlift operations during Korean War

- Used for high altitude nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s

- Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System or JACADS, the United States' first full-scale chemical weapons disposal facility, built in 1985 on Johnston Island

- JACADS disposed of approximately seven percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile—more than 2,000 tons of chemical nerve and blister agents in more than 410,000 munitions



geography

- Atoll consists of a modified natural island and two completely man-made islands, West (Fanning) and East (Hikina)

- Total area of 1.7 square miles, about 4.7 times the area of the state of Washington, DC

- Coastline: 21.1 miles

- Highest elevation: 16.7 meters

- No natural fresh water

- No indigenous invertebrates

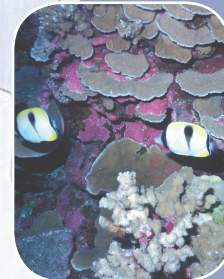
- 34 species of coral

- More than 300 fish species

- Fifteen species of birds on Johnston Island, including the Laysan Albatross, using the atoll for nesting

- The only known nesting site for the house mouse

- Several threatened species frequent the island, including the Laysan Albatross and Hawaiian Monk Seal



ography

nine-mile reef, two highly islands, Johnston and Sand, and an-made islands, North (Akau)

square miles—
the size of The Mall

les

Summit Peak, 16 feet

water resources

abitants

l exist in the atoll waters

h species exist around the atoll

seabirds are known to breed
d, with over 500,000 seabirds
roosting and nesting

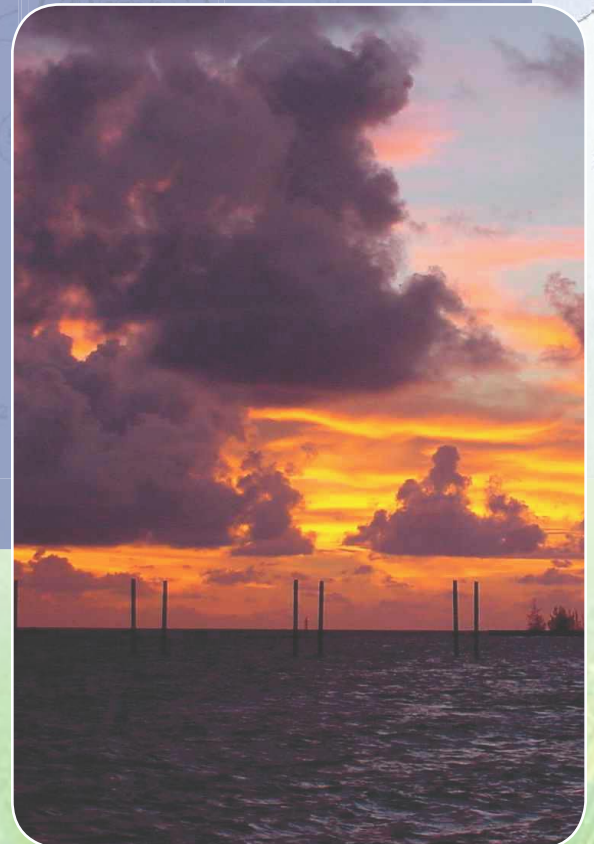
roduced mammal is

and endangered species
d, including the Green Sea Turtle
k Seal



weather

- Highest temperature ever recorded: 94 F
- Lowest temperature ever recorded: 62 F
- Average temperature: 79 F
- Mean annual precipitation: 26 inches (this is variable because rain is usually associated with sporadic, monsoon-like storms)
- Driest year: 1953 – 13 inches of rain
- Wettest years: 1968, 2002 – 42 inches of rain



TIMELINE JACADS



1934

Executive Order 6935 transfers control of Johnston Atoll, located 825 miles southwest of Hawaii, to U.S. Navy.

1948

U.S. Air Force assumes control.

1971

The U.S. Army ships chemical weapons from Okinawa, Japan, to Johnston Island, one of four islands at Johnston Atoll.

1971-
2000

Chemical weapons are stored safely on Johnston Island.

1985

Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) **construction begins**—the first full-scale facility in the U.S. constructed to get rid of chemical weapons. JACADS to use high heat and incineration as a **disposal method**.

1990

U.S. chemical weapons are transferred to Johnston Island from former West Germany.

U.S. Army **begins disposal** of Johnston Island chemical weapons stockpile.

1991

Range-recovered chemical munitions received from Solomon Islands.

1998

Nerve agent GB campaign complete.

1999

Blister agent HD campaign complete.

2000

Nerve agent VX campaign complete—destruction of all chemical weapons on Johnston Island complete on Nov. 29, 2000. JACADS becomes the first chemical agent disposal facility in the U.S. to complete its destruction mission by destroying more than 410,000 chemical weapons.

2001

JACADS closure starts.

2002

JACADS destroys all legacy-contaminated charcoal.

2003

JACADS completes stored-secondary waste destruction.

Last of four JACADS disposal furnaces/incinerators shut down.

JACADS Closure Ceremony held in Honolulu.

2004

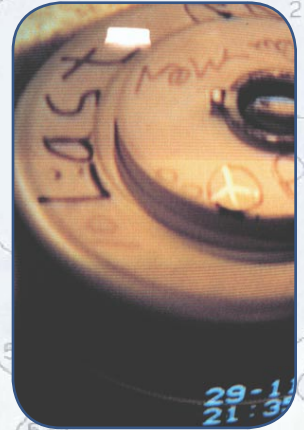
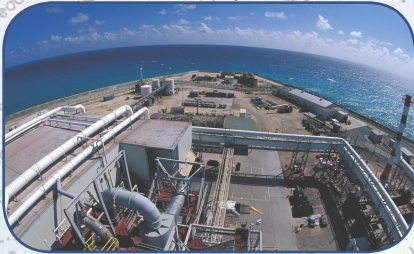
JACADS closure complete.

JACADS start to finish

1985
construction

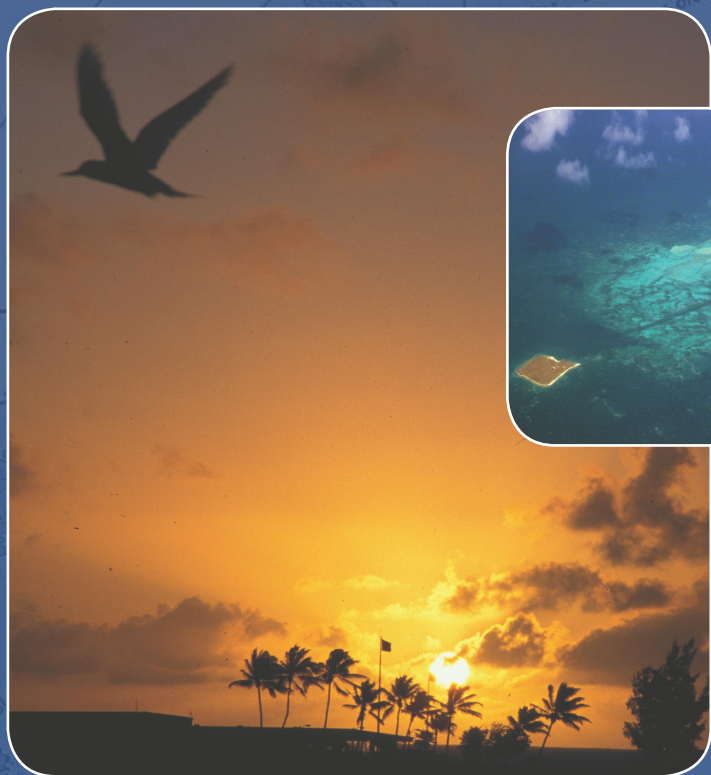


1990
disposal



2003
closure





Aloha

Making Chemical Weapons History